



Montana News



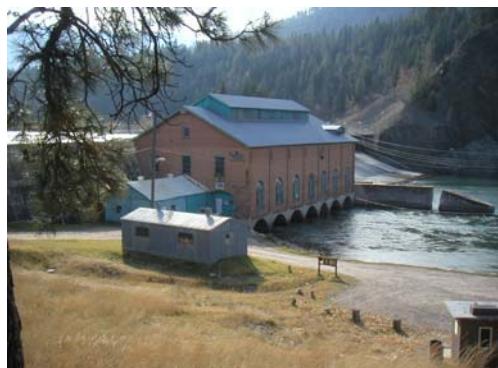
Fleshman Creek after restoratin of channel and floodplain.

Recent Success

Dam Removal Clears Way for Recreation Improvements

More than two decades after the area was designated a federal superfund site, and with the assistance of RTCA staff, a multi-year project to remove Milltown dam has finally begun. The Milltown dam, situated at the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers outside Missoula, is being dismantled and toxic sediments in the dam's reservoir are being removed or stabilized in place. The rivers will be restored to naturally functioning watercourses with high-quality riparian areas, wetlands and floodplains.

Working with the RTCA staff, the Milltown Redevelopment Working



Milltown dam, scheduled for removal in 2008.

RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate. By investing in the protection of special places, recreation, tourism, and well planned development, local leaders can bring long-lasting economic and quality of life benefits to their communities.

Group has created a community-based redevelopment plan for the reservoir area. The county commissioners have adopted the plan, and more than \$4 million dollars so far has been raised to build parks, trails, bridges, river access sites and an interpretive center. Design work is now proceeding on phase 1 of redevelopment, which includes twelve miles of trail and a pedestrian bridge over the Blackfoot River. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007.

"RTCA is exactly the kind of Federal program that makes sense. RTCA program staff provide a variety of types of assistance to help organizations like ours establish themselves and become effective."
--Mark Holston, Flathead River Partnership

New Trail System for Livingston

The City of Livingston and Park County now have a blueprint for a community trails system thanks to a trails plan developed by a city-county task force facilitated by RTCA. The plan recommends locations for over 120 miles of pathways, bike lanes, and bike routes. Completed in November 2006, the plan has been adopted by the county, and the city is in the process of incorporating it into its subdivision ordinance and growth policy. Grant money has already been requested to construct one recommended trail. And, in November and December of 2006, over 1500 acres along the Yellowstone River was annexed into the city to facilitate creation of two planned unit developments that each contemplate trail systems in conformance with the newly created trails plan.

Current Projects

1. Livingston Trails

Project Goal:

Creation of a trails and greenways plan for the City of Livingston and the surrounding areas of the county to provide transportation, recreation, health, social, economic and educational benefits to the community.

RTCA Role:

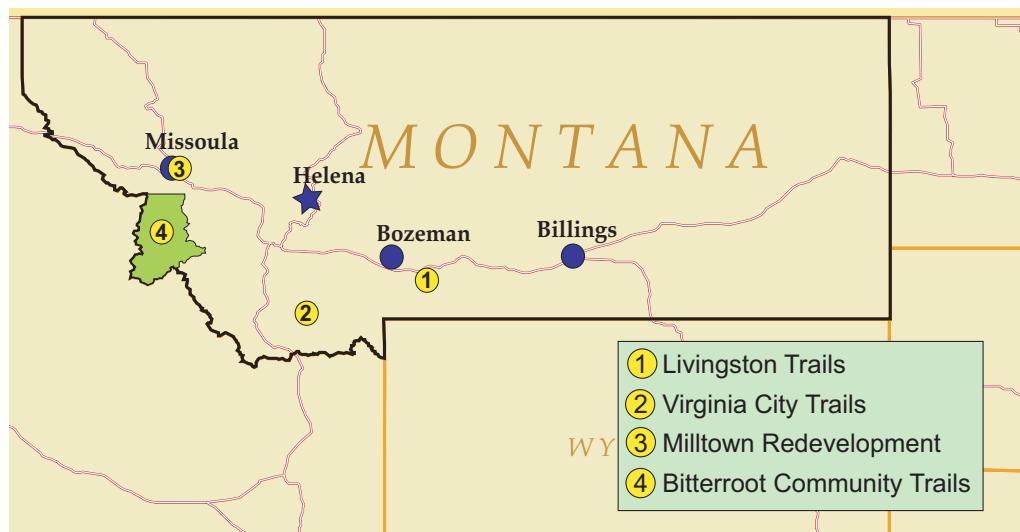
RTCA staff facilitated the Livingston/Park County Trails and Greenways Task Force; provided expertise in trail system design and administration, survey development and public involvement; and coordinated development of GIS maps and writing of the trails plan.

NPS Contact: Gary Weiner

Partner: City of Livingston

"The NPS Rivers and Trails Program provided our task force with expert assistance and very effective facilitation, without which our effort would have been costlier, more time consuming, and resulted in a less-focused work product."

--Steve Caldwell, Livingston City Commissioner



2. Virginia City Trails

Project Goal:

Construction of two trails totaling 3.3 miles that connect the important natural, cultural, recreational and community attributes of Virginia City.

RTCA Role:

Providing technical support in the design of the proposed trail system, including: route selection; protection of environmentally sensitive areas; trail width, surfacing and construction techniques; ADA accessibility; and trailside interpretive displays.

NPS Contact: Gary Weiner

Partner: City of Virginia City

3. Milltown Redevelopment

Project Goal:

Creation of a 500-acre regional park and natural area; restoration of nine miles of two nationally renowned rivers (Clark Fork and Blackfoot); enhancement of wetlands and wildlife habitat; groundwater pollution abatement; and construction of 20 miles of trail, three large pedestrian bridges, four river access sites, and an interpretive center.

RTCA Role:

RTCA is providing technical assistance to the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group in the planning and design of trails, open space, and river recreation. Assistance is also provided in facilitating Working Group meetings, assessing river restoration plans, identifying funding sources, and graphic illustration of concept plans.

NPS Contact: Gary Weiner

Partner: Missoula City-County Health Department



Community meeting in Bonner.



Improving fish habitat on Fleshman Creek.

4. Bitterroot Community Trails

Project Goal:

Creation of a county-wide trails system, including construction of new trails that connect resources and communities throughout the county.

RTCA Role:

Providing expertise in the planning and development of trail systems, including: conceptual planning; organizational planning; budgeting; capacity building; and on-the-ground implementation of demonstration projects.

NPS Contact: Gary Weiner

Partner: Bitter Root Land Trust

NPS-RTCA Contact Information

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